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January 18, 2005

## V CORPS SIGNAL COMPANY HEADS BACK TO IRAQ FOR SECOND DEPLOYMENT

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**DARMSTADT, Germany** — Saying goodbye has become a routine thing for family members and loved ones of Soldiers in V Corps' 578th Signal Company here.

The company, part of the 440th Signal Battalion, 22nd Signal Brigade, shipped out January 14 for its second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Many of its members' families wanted to be able to spend more time with their Soldiers, who returned from their last OIF deployment just nine months ago.

Soldiers made the most of their last few moments before departing, making phone calls, enjoying a fast-food meal, or just holding their loved ones.

Sgt. Guy Keeny, who was with the unit for its first OIF deployment, made a final call on his cell phone to his brother. He said he's glad to deploy again with the same company.

"I'm proud to go down," he said. "It's a lot nicer to go down when you know the unit you are with."

The deployment was marked with a ceremony punctuated by the troops' family members and friends standing by, holding American flags. Some quietly shed tears.

Lt Col. Edwin Drose, commander of the 440th, assured the troops that their Soldiers would be looked after.

"Take a look at your families standing over there," he said. "We are going to take care of them."

Drose also gave the departing troops some words of advice.

"Your buddy is what's most important," he said. "Always watch out for your battle buddy."

The unit's mission during deployment is to provide communications capabilities to U.S. military forces.

